

Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1360

INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MANILA 3289

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, RP

SUBJECT: PHILIPPINE CONCERN ABOUT INDOCHINA

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

REF: MANILA 3123

1. PRESIDENT MARCOS' EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN ABOUT FATE OF
INDOCHINA, VOICED PRIVATELY TO VISITING DEPUTY SECRETARY OF
DEFENSE CLEMENTS, HAVE BEEN PARALLELED BY EXPRESSIONS OF
CONCERN IN CONTROLLED MANILA PRESS. PLIGH OF SMALL PHILIP-
PINE COMMUNITY IN CAMBODIA HAS ATTRACTED LARGEST HEADLINES
(SUCH AS TIMES JOURNAL'S MARCH 11 "FILIPINOS FLEE AS P. PENH
TOTTERS") BUT UNITED STATES IS DRAWING FAIRLY WIDE-SPREAD
CRITICISM FOR ITS WAVERING AND INCREASINGLY UNCERTAIN SUPPORT
OF A SERIOUS COMMITMENT.

2. BULLETIN COLUMNIST TEODORO VALENCIA COMMENTED ON
MARCH 9, QUOTE LON NOL GOVERNMENT OF CAMBODIA IS FIGHTING
FOR DEAR LIFE BUT IT IS UNITED STATES THAT'S UNDERTRIAL
AT CETNER STAGE OF WORLD OPINION. LONGER USA DELAYS AID,
LESS PROBABLE IS SURVIVAL OF CAMBODIA'S AMERICAN-BACKED
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GOVERNMENT. ASIAN COUNTRIES ARE WATCHING ACTION WITHKEEN

INTEREST. IF PHNOM PENH FALLS, IT WON'T BE BECAUSE LON NOL FORCES DID NOT TRY HARD ENOUGH. THEY AN ALWAYS SAY THEY WERE ABANDONED TO DEFEAT. US CONGRESS HAS EXCELLENT CHANCE TODOWNGRADE FORD ADMINISTRATION IN EYES OF WORLD. END QUOTE. BULLETIN CARTOON OF MARCH 14. SHOWS A BEFUDLED UNCLE SAM STRIPPING PETALS FROM DAISY OVER CAPTION "HELP CAMBODIA... DON'T HELP..."

3. IN MARCH 12 EDITORIAL, EXPRESS (INDIRECTLY OWNED BY PRESIDENT MARCOS) SUGGESTED "DIEN BIEN PHU-LIKE COLLAPSE" OF CAMBODIA SHOULD CAUSE PHILIPPINES TO REEXAMINE "EXISTING ALLIANCES," CLEARLY MEANING ITS ALLIANCE WITH THE UNITED STATES (TEXT BEING POUCED). ON MARCH 13 TIMES JOURNAL (CONTROLLED BY MRS. MARCOS' FAMILY) REPRINTED MANCHESTER GUARDIAN EDITORIAL NOTING LIKELY CONCLUSION OF US ALLIES THAT "UNITED STATES NOW ABANDONS ITS ALLIES WHEN GOING GETS ROUGH."

4.COMMENT. REACTION TO CAMBODIAN CRISIS ILLUSTRATES THAT, IN SPITE OF PRIDE WHICH VIRTUALLY ALL FILIPINOS TAKE IN REORIENTING THEMSELVES TOWARD ASIA AND OPENING NEW CONTACTS WITH COMMUNIST POWERS, GOP CONTINUES TO ATTACH FUNDAMENTAL IMPORTANCE TO US ALLIANCE, AND TO BE DEEPLY CONCERNED AT ANY SUGGESTED DIMINUTION OF ALLIANCES'S RELIABILITY. SULLIVAN

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